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Message Text

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22
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DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:DBLAKEMORE
APPROVED BY EUR:MR. HUGHES
S/S: LREDDY
---------- 041729
R 222039Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, CA

SUBJECT: BILL C-58

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DATED SEPTEMBER 20.
BEGIN TEXT.
"DEAR MR. SECRETARY, I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 26, 1976 TO MY PREDECESSOR, THE HONORABLE ALLAN J. MACEACHEN, CONCERNING BORDER TELEVISION ISSUES. I APPRECIATED YOUR LETTER FOR ITS CANDID ASSESSMENTS REGARDING BILL C-58 AND FOR ITS CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO THE COMMERCIAL DELETION QUESTION.

"AS I BELIEVE MR. MACEACHEN AFFIRMED TO YOU AT YOUR AUGUST 18 MEETING, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS A HIGH INTEREST IN BRINGING ABOUT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE COMMERCIAL DELETION ISSUE IN HOPES OF REMOVING THE BORDER TELEVISION PROBLEM FROM OUR BILATERAL AGENDA.
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I AM THEREFORE PLEASED THAT OUR OFFICIALS HAVE AGREED TO

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MEET TO DISCUSS COMMERCIAL DELETION ON OCTOBER 6 IN WASHINGTON.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT AS PART OF THE AUGUST 18 DISCUSSIONS,

MR. MACEACHEN PROVIDED YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE STATUS OF BILL C-58, AND ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD THAT ITS BROADCASTING PROVISIONS WOULD BE PROMULGATED IN SEPTEMBER. MR. MACEACHEN HAS SINCE DISCUSSED THE MATTER OF PROMULGATION WITH OUR COLLEAGUE, THE HONORABLE JEANNE SAUVE, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING YOU WITH PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF THE DATE OF PROMULGATION.

"AS A FOLLOW-UP THEREFORE TO YOUR AUGUST 18 DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. MACEACHEN, AND IN KEEPING WITH THE PRACTICE OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN SUCH MATTERS, I AM INFORMING YOU IN ADVANCE, AND IN CONFIDENCE, THAT THE PROMULGATION OF THE BROADCASTING SECTION OF BILL C-58 WILL TAKE PLACE ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 22, 1976. MY OFFICIALS WILL INFORM YOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE EXACT DATE PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

"I SHARE IN YOUR VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AT THE SCHEDULED MEETINGS ON COMMERCIAL DELETION AND I REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT GOOD FAITH EFFORTS BY OUR OFFICIALS TO REACH A POSITIVE RESOLUTION OF THE COMMERCIAL DELETION QUESTION WILL NOT BE HAMPERED AS A RESULT OF UNHELPFUL PRIVATE ACTIONS.

"ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I LOOK FORWARD TO RENEWING ACQUAINTANCES, AND TO CARRYING ON THE CLOSE CONSULTATIONS ON CANADA/USA RELATIONS AS WELL AS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, WHICH WERE SO MUCH A PART OF YOUR EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH ALLAN MACEACHEN. YOURS SINCERELY, DON JAMIESON. " END TEXT. HABIB

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